



## **RHODE ISLAND SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF**

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

One Corliss Park

Providence, RI 02908

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### **MEETING MINUTES – General Meeting**

**Date:** April 5, 2016

**Time:** 6:30 p.m.

**Minutes recorded by:** Helen Edwards

**Minutes approved on: May 3, 2016**

**Interpreters:** Shauna Jehle and Heather Anderson

**CART:** Shelly Deming

#### **Call to Order**

- a. Chairperson Montgomery called the meeting of the RI School for the Deaf Board of Trustees to order at 6:37 p.m. in the Cafeteria of the RI School for the Deaf.

#### **Roll Call of Board of Trustees**

- b. **Trustees in Attendance:** Amanda Montgomery, Jonathan Henner, Joseph Fischgrund, Danielle Loughlin and Nora Meah
- c. **Administration in Attendance:** Amy Vincenzi, Mary Pendergast and Nancy Maguire Heath
- d. **Excused:** Jane Newkirk

- **Public Comment:**

- No one registered for public comment.

- **Acceptance of Previous Meeting Minutes:**

- Jonathan Henner made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from March 1, 2016 with minor edits; seconded by Danielle Loughlin. Motion approved with all in favor.

- **Reports / Action Items:**

- Report of the Chairperson:
  - Board Recruitment Update.
    - Chairperson Montgomery announced that Octavian Robinson has been nominated and approved to be our next new Board member. His term will begin in May.
    - Chairperson Montgomery announced that Jonathan Henner has a new job opportunity and will be leaving the Board in June 2016. She thanked him for all he has done for the Board.
    - Strategic Plan Project-Chairperson Montgomery reported to the Board that an RFP will be going out for consultant's to bid on. Due to the estimated cost the State Purchasing Guidelines need to be followed.

- **Report of the Director**

- Mary Pendergast, Special Education Director, filled in for Director Maguire Heath with the Director's Report. She reported that the census is stable. Three tours were given this month and one student will be starting in a couple of weeks.
- The Middle School Battle of the Books Team traveled to Gallaudet and won the national championship. One student won the All Star Player Award and another won the Most Outstanding Player Award for the green division.
- Mary Pendergast also reported that PARCC testing will be starting April 11th and continue through April 29<sup>th</sup>. NECAP science will occur in May for grades 4, 8 and 11 depending on which math the students are taking.
- Teachers also had Bedrock Training with Kristin DePerri. Kristin DePerri and her partner have published the ASL/ English standards and benchmarks and objectives for levels 1 to 3 in the Bedrock curriculum.
- 125 tickets for the Gala have been sold and we are hoping to sell 75 more. Alex Abenchuchan will be the entertainment for the night as CJ Jones could not get out of his movie contract.
- The new playground equipment has been received and excavating is under way.
- The light pole banners will be put up tomorrow on all of the light poles in the parking lot.
- Director Maguire Heath had applied for an early childhood grant for \$9,015 and the grant was awarded. It is related to the Bright Star certification we received-, this money will be spent on preschool and kindergarten classrooms to make them more accessible to students.
- New legislation has been proposed by Theresa Paiva Weed to educate hearing students in ASL at RISD.
- The new 8 passenger van will be arriving at the end of April. The handicapped accessible mini school bus bids closed on March 31.
- The Math Competition team is leaving on Friday to go to Rochester, NY.
- Jr. NAD team is also going to a conference Friday-Sunday at ASD.
- The Close Up team will be traveling to Washington, DC on May 1 and returning on May 6.
- A middle school student was awarded second place in this year's Marie Philip ASL/ Art competition at Northeastern University.
- Valerie Houser spoke about the Ed Camp conference that was held two weekends ago. It was a great success with over 60 people in attendance. Many people brought their expertise to the conference. It was a great day of learning and sharing.
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- **Finance Committee Report**

- Joseph Fischgrund reported that at the Finance Committee meeting Amy Vincenzi explained to Joe and Jonathan the structure of the budget and the accounting system. The current spending is on track.

- **The Board moved into Executive Session at 7:08 PM in accordance with R.I. General Laws 42-46-5(a)(2) to discuss collective bargaining with the NEA/Teachers' Union. A motion was made by Jonathan Henner to seal the Executive Minutes and second by Nora Meah. Motion passed with all in favor.**

- **The Board returned to open session at 8:06 PM for final announcements.**

- **Action Item: Policies**

- Board of Trustees Handbook Communication Policies – Second Reading- A motion was made by Jonathan Henner to approve the second reading. Danielle Loughlin second the motion. The motion passed with all in favor. Formatting will be done for a third reading by Chairperson Montgomery.
- Board of Trustees Handbook General Sessions and Work Sessions First Reading- A motion was made by Jonathan Henner to approve the first reading and make the changes for the second reading. Danielle Loughlin second the motion. The motion passed with all in favor.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:25 PM.